AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of activating bleach comprising the step of combining with the bleach a partially acylated fructan having a degree of substitution with [[acyl]] at least one of acetyl, propionyl and butyryl groups of 0.4 - 2.5 and a degree of substitution of less than 0.5 with other substituents.

2. (currently amended) [[The]] A method ~~according to Claim 1, wherein the fructan is acylated with C_1-C_6 acyl groups~~ of activating bleach comprising combining with the bleach a partially acylated fructan having a degree of substitution with C_1-C_6 acyl groups of 0.4-2.5 and a degree of substitution of less than 0.5 with other substituents.

3. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the fructan is acylated with a degree of substitution of 0.6 - 1.8.

4. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the fructan has an average chain length of 3 - 60~~, in particular 4-30~~.

5. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the degree of substitution of carboxymethyl groups is less than 0.2.

6. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the fructan is inulin.

7. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the fructan is acylated with at least ~~one of~~ an acetyl ~~and/or~~ or propionyl ~~groups~~ group.

8. (original) A process of producing an acetylated and/or propionylated fructan or fructan derivative by acylation of the fructan or derivative thereof with a reactive acyl derivative of acetic and/or propionic acid, characterised in that the acylation is carried out in an aqueous medium at a pH of between 7 and 9.

9. (original) A process according to Claim 8, characterised in that the acylation is carried out at a temperature of between 0 and 40 °C.

10-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the fructan has an average chain length of 3-60~~, in particular 4-30~~.

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the degree of substitution of carboxymethyl groups is less than 0.2

16. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 4, wherein the degree of substitution of carboxymethyl groups is less than 0.2

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the fructan is inulin.

19. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 4, wherein the fructan is inulin.

20. (canceled)

21. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the fructan has an average chain length of 4.30.